(v) Development of mechanical engineering aspects of water distribution, leak detections, computerised mapping.

(vi) Use of non coventional energies (biomass, wind, tidal) and in particular solar photovoltaic energy.

In the said meeting it was suggested to have an informal gathering to review the support which may come from the French side.

Research on anti-body to fight AIDS

1697. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the development of an antibody to fight AIDS bysome California Bio-technology Company, if so, the details of the possible applications;

(b) whether any Research and Development work is being done by Government agencies in India in this respect; and

(c) whether any research is being done in the Indian System of Medicine to find a cure for AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes. Genentech Inc. announced that it had combined molecules of CD4, a naturally occurring protein with molecules of a viral protein known as GPI20. The resultant complex would look on to the AIDS virus and keep it away from destroying the white cells.

The development may make it possible to manufacture a drug that would render the virus harmless.

(b) No. However, global efforts in developing a cure for AIDS are being closely followed and as and when promising therapeutic and propnylactic agents are available, trials will be initiated in India.

(c) It is true that symptoms of AIDS are similar to some extent with Ojakshya which is described in Charak Samhite but it would be difficult to confirm that AIDS is Ojakshaya. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Sidha, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for research in Ayurveda and Sidha, has not initiated any specific research on AIDS.

Junk foods

1698. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more Junk Foods are entering the market in the name of Health Foods on account of Government policies to encourage processed foods as reported in the Times of India of 25th March, 1989;

(b) whether Government are also aware that benefits of the processed Foods are not reaching the farmers but only the middlemen and food processors, marketers and exporters; and

(c) whether Government have seen the analytical newsreport on junk foods in Health for millions of October, 1989 brought out by the Voluntary Health Association of India, Delhi, which brings out the issues of Health and Foods, if so, corrective action taken|proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Govt. has seen the article entitled "The Food fad nexus" appearing in Times of India dated 25-3-1989.

(b) As per information collected from the Ministry of Food Processing, the farmers are benefited by the Food Processing Industries by the sale of their "cull" fruits, excess fruits and vegetables in glut season. Fruits not having uniform colour, shape and size or damaged by hail-storm are also sold to the Food Processing Industries. Middlemen and transporter are able to earn their living by bringing fruits and vegetables from farmers to processing factories. Food processors are able to provide job directly to labourers, technical persons and administrators. They are also able to earn for their families and families of partners and directors. Whole-sellers|retailers earn their living by selling processed